MR. CHAIRAMAN : What do you want to say :

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Sir, the members of the Committee want to have an exhaustive discussion on the Bill because it is for the first time in the country that we are making enactments on cyber laws, and as such, this Bill is the first of its kind. There are eminent persons in this Committee who want to discuss every clause threadbare. So, the Committee needs more time. Sir, you will appreciate that the Bill having been referred to the Committee, I think it is more justifiable on our part to exhaustively discuss this Bill and send a comprehensive report. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Question Hour is over.

Written answers to starred Questions

Promotions of Agricultural Mechanisation Among small and marginal farmers

*383. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have introduced any Central scheme for the promotion of agricultural mechanisation among small and marginal farmers in the country :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many small and marginal farmers have been benefited therefrom during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) A Centrally Sponsored-Scheme entitled Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers' has been under implementation since 1992-93. Under the Scheme, subsidy @ 30% of the cost of tractor including implements, limited to Rs, 30,000/- is available to the farmers individually or in groups, for the purchase of tractors up to 30 power-Take-Off Horse Power (PTOHP). Since inception of the Scheme, about 23,600 number of tractors have been subsidised benefiting moere than this number of farmers, including small and marginal farmers.

Protection of Traditional Right of Farmers and Breeders

*388. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to protect traditio. nal right of farmer and breeders;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the action taken to facilitate the growth of the see d industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Protection of Plant Varieties and F armers' Rights Bill, 1999 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 14-12-1999 . This Bill has now been referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament for examination. The Bill will provide for and effective system for the protection of plant breeders rights, as well as the farmer's traditional rights to save, use, exchange, share or sell his farm produce of a variety protected under the proposed Act, provided that a farmer shall not be entitled for such right in case the sale is for the purpose of reproduction under a commercial marketing arangement. The Bill will also provide for Researchers' Rights to have free and complete access to the protected variety for bonafide research and for development of new varieties of plants.

(c) The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer Rights Bill, 1999 will facilitate the growth of the seed industry in the country by stimulating Investments for research and development, both in the public and priviate sectors for the development of new plant varieties and will also ensure the availability of high quality seeds and planting material to the Indian farmers.

Besides formulation of the above legislation, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is also taking various measures for the growth of seed industry in the country which include amendment of the Seeds. Act, 1966, Seed Rules, 1968 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, as part of the Seeds Sector Reforms. Various central sector schemes are also under implementation, Viz, Establishment and Maintenace of Seed Bank, Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance, Foundation and Certified Seed production of Vegetable Crops, setting up of National Seed Training Centre with modern Seed Testing Laboratory and strengthening of Seed Quality Control Organisations. In order to make available seed of good quality to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, and Hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, transport subsidy is provided. Seed Production is also supported under the Seed Minikit Programme on Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Oilseeds Production Programme and National Pulses

Development Project of Technology Mission on Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize, as well as production and supply of vegetable seed under horticulture programme.

Release of Matching Share for Tripura

*389. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have not released matching share for Tripura under Fish Farmers Development Agency Scheme even though the financial year has since closed; and

(b) if so, by when it will be released?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Setting up of Liaison Office of GAIL in Bangalore

*390. SHRI K.C.KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested for setting up of a Liaison Office of Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) in Bangalore.

(b) if so, whether the State Government has agreed to provide all infrastructural facilities; and

(c) the action, if any, taken by Government on the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Branch Office of Gas Authority of India Ltd. is already functioning in Bangalore since December 1996.

Construction of Building of Central Agricultural University at Imphal

*391. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the CentralAgricultural University, Imphal, does not have its own Headquarter building even now;

(b) if so, the progress of construction of its Headquarter building; and